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Chief, Geography Division

3 January 1957

Chief, Geographic Research

Review of Report CIA/RR-G-16, The Volga-Ural Region

1. In reviewing the Volga-Ural Region report, I find a very good survey of the important elements of the region and the presentation of a considerable amount of very useful data. I agree with you that the study provides an essential framework for the evaluation of additional intelligence on this region.

2. Each paragraph of the introduction considers one or more aspects of cause and effect relationships, but still somehow gives the impression of a unit-by-unit, effect-by-effect consideration, which does not result in an integrated assessment of the region. Beyond the steps already taken in the introduction of the report toward regional assessment, I would like to see an additional effort made by the author in gathering up the various essential elements presented in the body of the report, and the inter-relating of these elements to build a description of an alive, functioning regional organism. This new word picture of the elements of the regional complex in inter-related action should be in addition to what is already in the present report, possibly as a new chapter.

3. There are numerous opportunities afforded by the subject matter of the report for the development of black and white maps and their use on the page of applicable text. This should be done in future reports where appropriate.

4. There are a number of minor questions which are indicated by the presence of paper clips and writing in blue pencil. Rather than take a lot of time writing them out in this memorandum, I should like to discuss them with you.

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ENCLOSURE: CIA/RR-G-16

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